

communities safe for all. I have sacrificed my body "on the Alter of Police work" after all these years. To know that I have work comp there supporting me and making me whole in the end makes me want to continue to take those risks and put myself in harms way for you. We take care of our military people who put themselves in harms way on a daily basis for the very freedoms we all take for granted. We make sure the men and women who suffer the war-time loss of limbs and injuries too horrid to describe are taken care of. So why is it we can't take care of the workers, the nuts and bolts if you will, of this great state we all call Montana? After all, the very hand you chop off with this bill my very well be your own family member or worse yet, YOU... Think about it.

My elected officials, thank you for your consideration into this very serious bill and thank you for all the work you do in an all too-often thankless job....

Respectfully submitted,
James R Pontrelli
Missoula Police Department
435 Ryman
Missoula, MT 59802
406.880.7207

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Here is the name of a personal friend and an attorney specializing in work comp and personal injury and who is the one of the best in the business:

Leslae Dapiaz
Dapiaz Law Firm
222 E Pine
Missoula, MT 59802
406.549.9200

VOTE NO ON HB 334 !!!

Greetings to the representatives of this great state of Montana and what a privilege it is to be able to write to you about about my concerns.....

My name is James R Pontrelli and I am currently employed with the Missoula City Police Department. I was hired April of 1988 and prior to that I served with the Missoula County Sheriff's Department from July 1985 until July 1987 when budget constraints forced the layoffs of 16 sworn deputies.

Since my hire in 1988 I have ventured into almost every job specialty available with-in the Patrol Division of the Police Department. I chose to stay in Patrol because it is truly the "front line", if you will, on combating the proverbial "good vs evil". Along with this choice came the daily possibility of increased bodily injury and sometimes even narrowly escaping death. Having been in this profession so long, I have been injured many times in the course of "just doing my job". I have suffered a sprained ankle, bruised shoulder, torn ligaments in my hand, a neck fusion at C-5-C-6 and toes fused on both feet just to name a few. Every time I was injured I returned to work as soon as medically possible with three months being the longest time I have been absent from work.

Having to deal with "work comp" and certain adjusters has been so complicated and trying that I have had to hire an attorney just to navigate the basics of this complex system. That being said and in all fairness, "work comp" has paid my medical bills and made me feel some-what whole after my injuries. I still have a medical claim open that occurred in 1996 (neck fusion) and I am thankful that my benefits were not terminated after a five-year period. I suffer massive headaches and still require medication that is very costly. I do my job to best of my ability, try not to complain and I am told by several supervisors and many peers that I am still a very productive and experienced employee they would hate to lose. I go to work hoping for a better tomorrow and I am proud I can contribute daily to make this a reality.

Having read over this bill (HB334), I am quite troubled by the termination of benefits after five years. My understanding is that if I suffer an injury requiring on-going medical treatment and care beyond five years (which is a very great possibility in this line of work), it will not be covered unless the injury requires surgery. In other words, with all due respect, you are going to make sure I will be taken care of for five years then....I guess not, we are going to hand you off to a private insurance company. Handing me off to a private insurance company is NOT going to happen. How many times do insurance companies refuse to take over a PRE-EXISTING condition?..not likely!

What about the logger who cuts timber to provide wood for homes most of us are blessed to have? What about the blue-collar worker working two jobs just to provide for his> or her family? I am not advocating that work comp should provide every employee a ticket to financial freedom if injured while at work. I am the first to admit I have seen severe abuse of this system but to severely limit benefits to those truly in need is outlandish.

Representatives, be happy there are people like me on the front line making it safe for you to go about your business. You want people like me to take risks for you and contribute to making our

EXHIBIT 2DATE 02-14-2011HB 424

Department of Environmental Quality
Annual Amount of Penalties Deposited in
General Fund and Special Revenue Accounts FY 2006 through FY 2010

Statute - General Fund	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Totals
Asbestos Control Act	6,500	38,575	40,000			85,075
Montana Hazardous Waste Act			67,500	102,969		170,469
Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Laws			4,326	10,000		14,326
Public Water Supply Laws	300,758	71,833	115,815	71,864	53,863	614,131
Strip & Underground Mine Reclamation Act	4,560	12,500	13,671	28,558	22,573	81,861
Montana Underground Storage Tank Act	39,162	46,658	34,984	7,907	14,990	143,702
Sanitation in Subdivisions Laws		1,500	1,466	2,574	250	5,790
Water Quality Act	14,902	124,635	38,568	21,825	119,872	319,802
Total General Fund	365,882	295,701	316,329	245,696	211,547	1,435,155
Statute - Special Revenue						5-yr Avg
Clean Air Act of Montana - Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Account	612,524	292,950	743,548	619,893	58,694	2,327,609
Metal Mine Reclamation Laws - Environmental Rehabilitation and Response Account	7,590	4,427	2,351	1,000		15,368
The Opencut Mining Act - Environmental Rehabilitation and Response Account	28,710	19,204	21,845	20,598	7,110	97,467
Septic Disposal & Licensure Laws - Environmental Rehabilitation and Response and		7,281	11,040	14,400	1,500	34,221
Montana Solid Waste Management Act - Solid Waste Management Account	31,316	7,225	30,000	9,250	1,000	78,791
Inspector Licensing & Permitting Act (Underground Storage Tank License & Permit Account		2,612	480			3,092
Total Special Revenue	680,140	333,699	809,263	665,141	68,304	2,556,548
Grand Total	1,046,023	629,400	1,125,592	910,837	279,851	3,991,703

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

2/14/11
474